

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 OIC-04 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

NEA-11 RSC-01 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 FEA-02 OMB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01

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R 151730Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4040

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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PASS STR/KELLY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: DTRD, GATT

SUBJECT: TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE GROUP 3 (A)-  
TARIFFS

1. CHAIRMAN OF INITIAL SESSION OF TNC GROUP E(A) ON  
TARIFFS (JAN TUMLIR OF GATT SECRETARIAT) BELIEVES MAIN  
TASK OF GROUP IS TO REACH AGREEMENT OF APPROACH TO  
STATISTICS. SECRETARIAT ITSELF--AND TUMLIR IN CAPACITY  
AS CHAIR OF GROUP--DOES NOT PLAN DO ANYTHING AT THIS  
STAGE OTHER THAN SUGGEST A REVIEW OF WHAT HAS BEEN DONE  
SO FAR.

2. TUMLIR, HOWEVER, HAS FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS ON ISSUES  
GROUP MIGHT USEFULLY EXPLORE:

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(A) HE MUST ASK THE COUNTRIES WHETHER THE UPDATING

OF THE TARIFF STUDY TO 1972 IS STILL REQUESTED OR WHETHER TO SKIP '72 AND WAIT FOR '73 DATA. TUMLIR HAS NO PREFERENCE. THE 1970/71 DATA FOR THE EC (AND THEREFORE THE 1972 DATA AS WELL) IS SOMETHING OF A FICTION, SINCE NATIONAL TARIFFS FOR NEW EC MEMBERS JOINING IN 1973 WERE MERELY PROJECTED TO EC BASIS AND MANY ARBITRARY DECISIONS HAD TO BE MADE ABOUT WHAT WAS CLASSIFIED WHERE. UPDATING DATA TO 1972 MAY DRAG ON INTO SEPT 1974. USE OF 1973 DATA WOULD CORRECT THIS PARTICULAR DEFICIENCY. HOWEVER, 1973 DATA INPUTS WILL ONLY START COMING IN IN SUMMAR OF 1974, WITH COMPLETION NOWHERE IN SIGHT. ALSO, 1973 WAS UNSTABLE YEAR FOR CURRENCIES, AND THESE DISTORTIONS COMPLICATE STATISTICAL WORK. 1972 WAS MORE STABLE.

(B) GROUP FOR NOW COULD REVIEW TARIFF WORK DONE THUS FAR BUT SHOULD NO RE-OPEN QUESTION OF THE FOUR AVERAGES ALREADY RUN IN TARIFF STUDY. THIS, TUMLIR BELIEVES, WOULD "COLLAPSE EVERYTHING." HE ACCORDINGLY DID NOT THINK EC WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO IDEA OF ATTEMPTING DRAW UP AN AGREED TEXT OF WHAT ALL THE NUMBERS IN TARIFF STUDY MEAN.

3. TUMLIR SAYS EC (DUGIMONT) IS NO LONGER PUSHING THE TARIFF HARMONIZATION PROPOSAL THEY ADVANCED A YEAR AGO. TUMLIR THEICKS EC UNSURE HOW TO PROCEED IN THIS WG; THEY DON'T YET WANT ANY DETAILED DISCUSSION OF VARIOUS HARMONIZATION FORMULAE. TUMLIR HAD HOPES OF AGROUP AGREEING TO RUN--ON TENTATIVE BASIS ONLY--VARIOUS TARIFF HARMONIZATION APPROACHES, INCLUDING PERHAPS ONE BASED ON TARIFF-CUTTING FORMULA NOW IN US TRADE REFORM ACT. HOWEVER, HIS LATER CALL TO DUGIMONT REVEALED EC WILL OPPOSE ANYTHING WHICH GOES BEYOND SIMPLE AND INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF THE BASIC NOTION OF TARIFF HARMONIZATION. THEY (EC) ARE PARTICULARLY WARY OF VARIOUS JAPANESE PROPOSALS. DALE

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